

Jesus and Gender Revelation 19

INTRODUCTION: We live in a confusing time in many ways, but none so significant as the global bewilderment as it relates to GENDER IDENTITY and PERSONAL SEXUALITY. How did we get here?

Well there are certainly cultural phenomenon that have contributed to our current state. The sexual revolution of the 60's, the AIDS epidemic of the 80's, the advent of the Internet in the 90's, the interconnectedness of Social Media in the 2000's. I'm not sure what the 70's contributed to our current trend, but I'm sure DISCO didn't help any. :)

With all of this in mind, I want to suggest that the PRIME influence in the current cultural quagmire can be summed up in ***the failure of the Church to proclaim a clear, consistent, Bible vision of the Person of Jesus Christ.***

What does Jesus have to do with GENDER FLUIDITY and PERSONAL SEXUALITY?

Well, 2000 years ago, during the time of Christ, Greek Philosopher **Epictetus** made an observation that many have found to be true, ***“You become like that which you focus on”***.

As preaching became less biblical, less doctrinal, and more pragmatic in the last half of the 20th century, the enemy began to capture the National and even the Global focus with 1001 entertaining trinkets.

You see, if EPICTETUS was correct and we become that which we focus on, and if our focus has shifted away from a biblical vision of God, in the absence of this consistent reality, the WORLD, the FLESH, and the DEVIL have been more than happy to give us a fluid, inconsistent, shifting IDOL on which to focus... and we in turn become like that which we worship.

If this is correct - the LGBTQ++ movement is less of a cultural phenomenon and more of an organized Religion. It has it's own Priest and Prophets.

Pastor Mark Driscoll described it this way, and I agree -

- LGBTQIA are the various Denominations within the larger religion. As Christianity has Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, Presbyterians... the religion of SEX has LGBTQIA.
- We have evangelists that seek to convert people to Christianity, the religion of sex does as well - people who say, “come join us, put up the hashtag, post the rainbow, try this sexual act.
- Christian have Baptism where people go public with their faith. The converse of that in the religion of sex is coming out.

- We have sacraments, Baptism and Communion. They do as well whether it be a sexual act or sexual activism.
- And what is happening now is that the religion of sex is trying to get into kids ministry. In every church there is a kids ministry, in the religion of sex their kids component is happening through school curriculums and social media.

Statistician George Barna tells us that 40% of young people in the US identify as LGBTQ and 30% of Christian young people identify as LGBTQ as well. That doesn't mean that they necessarily commit the acts, but it means they are opening as non-binary so as not to appear as intolerant.

What Christianity experienced during the time of the **Great Awakening**, the religion of sex is now experiencing in the **WOKE** movement.

When the Great Awakening occurred, jails were emptied out and the churches were filled. In the WOKE movement, churches are being emptied out and the jails can no longer house the number of inmates and laws are being changed to accommodate the astronomical number of convictions being handed down.

WHAT ARE WE TO DO? I suggest that we reverse engineer the problem. We got in this predicament by losing our focus on Christ, and we will get out of it by regaining and proclaiming the Person and Work of Jesus. Let me explain...

What comes to mind when you think of Jesus Christ is the single most important thing about you as a person.

- When you think of Jesus what comes to mind? What picture do you see?
- What is his personality like? Is he funny? Is he scary?
- Is he masculine? What is masculine? How would you describe feminine?
- If you saw him hear and now what would your reaction be? Hug? Worship?

ILLUSTRATION: IF I'm driving down a curvy road... and I say, "I like to think of this Road as being straight... I'm going to drive as if it's straight". That doesn't effect the road at all... because the road is a real thing. Well JESUS is a real thing as well. We are not to conceptualize about Him, we are to study His personal revelation.

THREE COMMON ERRORS:

1. ***To Focus on Jesus Divinity to the Neglect of His Humanity*** - Some people are off balance and think of his deity apart from his humanity. As if Jesus were like Superman. Nothing really hurt him, temptation wasn't really temptation. He might be dressed up like Clark Kent, but we know under that humanness exterior he was the man of steel. Was Jesus Divine? Yes! But he was also 100% human.

In ART - This is the portrait of Jesus where he always has a halo around his head.

If a guy's head perpetually glows He might be God. And just in case you are in doubt, there's that convenient logo on his robe with the heart and cross.

2. **To Focus on Jesus Humanity to the Neglect of His Deity** - Some people emphasize His humanity to the neglect of his Deity. This is the person who assumes Jesus is just like them. Sometimes - they even project their cultural norms and racial stereo types on Jesus. This is the Jesus with curly blonde hair, blue eyes... I'm sorry but I find that guy difficult to worship.
3. **To Focus on Jesus Humility to the neglect of His Glory** - This is when people over emphasize the qualities of Jesus that are in keeping with his nature as a Shepherd. Which makes you wonder, how was that guy able to drive the money changers out of the temple without the Roman Guards challenging him

CONTEXT: We are now at the moment in Revelation that we have all been waiting for. The Triumphant return of Jesus Christ in all of his glory.

- This is the Jesus that Herod the Great anticipated, thus calling for the slaughter of the innocents in the vicinity of Bethlehem. He viewed Jesus as the quintessential threat.
- This is the Jesus that the Israeli zealots were awaiting. Which explains why they didn't revolt at his crucifixion.

As I read, consider the implications for MANHOOD and GENDER in regards to Jesus Christ.

TEXT: Revelation 19:6–21 (ESV)

11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse!

ILLUSTRATION: Remember the Roman generals would keep a white horse tied and saddled and if they battle was a victory the victorious general would mount the white horse to leave the battle field. **Jesus shows up to the fight on a white horse.** This gives you some idea of his level of confidence.

11b. The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.

So Jesus is a **Warrior** and a **Judge** he commands the Army of Heaven's Angels.

ILLUSTRATION: Remember In **Matthew 26:51–54 (ESV)** When they came to arrest Jesus Peter took out his sword and cut off the ear of Malcus you do understand he wasn't aiming at his ear don't you? Note what Jesus said - 52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?"

Jesus says, I have command of the Angels of Heaven I am a General. I am a Warrior. But I did not come to fight - but to lay down my life and give it as a ransom for many.

But here is **Rev. 19** he does come to fight and He does have an army of angels at his side.

12 His eyes are like a flame of fire,

These are the same eyes that gazed up at Mary at his **birth**. These are the same eyes that gazed down at Mary from the **cross**. Now they are VERY ALIVE, Very Passionate, Nothing escapes the notice of His penetrating, piercing vision. He can see into the deepest recesses of the human heart, because “all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do” (Heb. 4:13).

12b. and on his head are many diadems,

The Diadem was the crown of a ruler. It was customary to confiscate a crown when you defeated a ruler. Jesus had MANY CROWNS. Meaning he was the King who would Conquer all Kings.

12c, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.

There are 3 names attributed to Jesus in this passage. 1.Faithful and True (11) 2.The Word of God (13) 3.This name which is a mystery. I would explain that to you, but no one can but himself. John didn't understand it, I don't understand it. But I will tell you this - Jesus has a wisdom that will stagger Solomon. He will be able to unfold and unpack the mysteries of the ages.

13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood,

This is a reference to **Isaiah 63:2-4 (ESV)**

2 Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress?

3 “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. 4 For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come.

All of you who have suffered for righteousness sake yet you didn't seek vengeance. You remembered - vengeance is mine I will repay thus saith the Lord. Don't think that you have become a cosmic doormat. Jesus will most certainly take up your case and you WILL receive Justice. Literally, not figuratively.

13b and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

Jesus is the WORD made flesh. If you love Jesus, you love this Book - He is the personification of TRUTH. If you despise and neglect this book, you despise and neglect Jesus. If you love Jesus keep His commands as delivered in this book.

14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

The Lord Jesus Christ will not return alone, but will be accompanied by the armies which are in heaven (cf. 17:14).

Four divisions make up these glorified troops.

1. Glorified Believers from the Church Age

• Oh I want my son and daughters to be in this group. I want to ride side by side with precious wife. I want to look across the troop and see my father and my mother. Look there rides Stonewall Jackson once again on a stallion, look there is Billy Graham strong full of life, look there your grandfather, your cousin who died too young. See Paul, See Peter, Why John probably saw himself in this division.

2. Tribulation Believers

• There are Jewish brethren awakened to their Messiah's voice, yet struck down by AntiChrist. They are not dead, they are alive riding with Jesus.

3. Old Testament Saints

• Look there is Moses and Elijah, There rides Isaiah the Prophet. Father Abraham riding alongside Jesus.

4. The Holy Angels - Gabriel, Michael, and a host that no man can number.

15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations,

The only weapon Christ carries is His Word. But oh friend don't underestimate the power of this weapon.

- This is the weapon that spun galaxies into existence.
- This is the weapon that defeated Satan in the wilderness.

It is likely true that no one among us can truly comprehend the power and authority of the Word of God.

Why would we preach speculation or opinion when we can wield the greatest power known to man. Take up the only offensive weapon we are prescribed the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.

15b. and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

On this day, you are summonsed, you are called, you are encouraged to conform to the will of Christ. But on that day - grace is fully spent. You will obey or you will die. Christ will not suffer fools.

16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

That is, he is the King to end all Kings. He is the Lord to end all Lords. Political party is obsolete... thank God. No longer will we democratic, communistic, socialist, or any

such thing - now they entire earth will be a THEOCRACY. If you don't like what this man says, you can't kick him off of your television station. You don't judge him, he will judge you.

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, 18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great." 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast (that is Anti-Christ) was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

Jesus said, "do not think I came to bring peace on the earth, but a sword"

NO CONSIDER: What should come to your mind when you think of Jesus Christ? If Epictetus was right and you do become like that which you focus on, is your daily meditation on Christ comprehensive and accurate?

JESUS is the fullest and best expression of the MASCULINE Gender that there has ever been.

- He was not a TYRANT, but he would go to WAR to defend His Kingdom.
- He was not a MISOGYNIST, he had healthy and supportive relationships with women.
- He was not a LONER, he did life with a band of brothers and they fought by his side at this return.
- He was not a PRUDE, the battles he fights is due to his passionate love for his bride the Church.
- He was not a RACIST, His sought followers from every tribe and tongue.
- He was not a BIGOT, He was a friend of sinners.

Jesus could drive money changers from the temple with a self fashioned weapon, and not a single guard opposed him. Yet, He was so approachable that little children would gladly climb into his lap.

The intellectual prowess of Jesus was such that it stupefied that academic elite of his day and even today there is not a University in the world that doesn't have to address the claims and teachings of Christ daily on their campus.

Women and children we safe and happy in His presence, religious hypocrites were not.

Focus on JESUS, Look to JESUS, Worship JESUS, and become like JESUS. Allow a clear vision of Jesus Christ to deliver from the perverted, convoluted, distorted ideas that are being preached by the RELIGION of sex.

Some of you didn't have a dad to help you navigate masculinity or you had a dad who was a bad example... but now you have Jesus. He will be your example.

Some of you ladies fear the masculine aspects of your husband because you have seen it expressed in some as abuse and lack of control, outburst of anger.

But see today that the Jesus is POWER under control - that is what Meekness means.

When you are training your sons, teach them to be like Jesus.

Allow them to play war.

Notice that they are designed both to BUILD as well as DESTROY, like Jesus.

Don't squelch their warrior tendencies, but don't tolerate any expression of bullying. Develop chivalry in your sons toward women. \

Sisters, allow your bothers to treat you with deferential kindness. Honor them when they do so.

When we gather to worship, one of the things I coach our worship team in, is giving voice to both Masculine and Feminine expressions of worship.

MEN and WOMEN worship differently.

When women sing, it sounds like a love song. Men are uncomfortable with that. Our songs of worship sound like a Battle Hymn. There is a difference. Most churches don't calculate for that balance and they become very feminine.

Here at First Baptist, we are targeting the guys. We have found that if you win that Dad, you get mom and the kids. If you win the Mom, you never get Dad and eventually you lose the kids.

WHY? Because in a culture where gender is considered fluid and sexuality has become a religion - it is vitally important that the CHURCH presents Jesus Christ as the quintessential man.

CONCLUSION/ILLUSTRATION:

- If you would change the world, you must change the nation.
- To change the nation, you must change the states.
- To change the states, you must change the communities.
- To change the communities, you must change the families.
- To change the families, you must change the MEN.

Men, I call you to follow JESUS CHRIST. Let us pray.